Numb. 120

The TATLER.

By Isaac Bickerstaff Esq;

——Velut Silvis, ubi passim
Palantes Error certo de Tramite pellit;
Ille sinistrorsum, hic dextrorsum abit. Hor.

From *Thursday January* 12. to *Saturday January* 14. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, January 13.

INSTEAD of considering any particular Passion or Character in any one Set of Men, my Thoughts were last Night employed on the Contemplation of human Life in general; and truly it appears to me, that the whole Species are hurried on by the same Desires, and engaged in the same Pursuits, according to the different Stages and Divisions of Life. Youth is devoted to Lust, middle Age to Ambition, old Age to Avarice. These are the Three general Motives and Principles of Action both in good and bad Men; tho' it must be acknowledged, that they change their Names, and refine their Natures, according to the Temper of the Person whom they direct and animate. For with the Good, Lust becomes Virtuous Love; Ambition, True Honour; and Avarice, the Care of Posterity. This Scheme of Thought amused me very agreeably till I retired to Rest; and afterwards formed it self into a pleasing and regular Vision, which I shall describe in all its Circumstances, as the Objects presented themselves, whether in a serious or ridiculous Manner.

I dreamed that I was in a Wood, of so prodigious an Extent, and cut into such a Variety of Walks and Allies, that all Mankind were lost and bewildered in it. After having wandered up and down some Time, I came into the Centre of it, which opened into a wide Plain, that was filled with Multitudes of both Sexes. I here discovered Three great Roads, very wide and long, that led into Three different Parts of the Forrest. On a sudden, the whole Multitude broke into Three Parts, according to their different Ages, and marched in their respective Bodies into the Three great Roads that lay before them. As I had a Mind to know how each of these Roads terminated, and whither it would lead those who passed through them, I joined my self with the Assembly that were in the Flower and Vigour of their Age, and called themselves, *The Band of Lovers.* I found to my great Surprise, that several old Men besides my self had intruded into this agreeable Company; as I had before observed, there were some young Men who had united themselves to the band of Misers, and were walking up the Path of Avarice; tho' both made a very ridiculous Figure, and were as much laughed at by those they joined, as by those they forsook. The Walk which we marched up, for Thickness of Shades, Embroidery of Flowers, and Melody of Birds, with the distant purling of Streams, and Falls of Water, was so wonderfully delightful, that it charmed our Senses, and intoxicated our Minds with Pleasure. We had not been long here, before every Man singled out some Woman to whom he offered his Addresses, and professed himself a Lover; when on a sudden we perceived this delicious Walk to grow more narrow as we advanced in it, till it ended in many intricate Thickets, Mazes and Labyrinths, that were so mixed with Roses and Bramble, Brakes of Thorns, and Beds of Flowers, rocky Paths and pleasing Grotto's, that it was hard to say, whether it gave greater Delight or Perplexity to those who travelled in it.

It was here that the Lovers began to be eager in their Pursuits. Some of their Mistresses, who only seemed to retire for the Sake of Form and Decency, led them into Plantations that were disposed into regular Walks, where, after they had wheeled about in some Turns and Windings, they suffered themselves to be overtaken, and gave their Hands to those who pursued them. Others withdrew from their Followers into little Wildernesses, where there were so many Paths interwoven with each other in so much Confusion and Irregularity, that several of the Lovers quitted the Pursuit, or broke their Hearts in the Chace. It was sometimes very odd to see a Man pursuing a fine Woman that was following another, whose Eye was fixed upon a Fourth, that had her own Game in View in some other Quarter of the Wilderness. I could not but observe Two Things in this Place which I thought very particular, That several Persons who stood only at the End of the Avenues, and cast a careless Eye upon the Nymphs during their whole Flight, often catched them, when those who pressed them the most warmly through all their Turns and Doubles, were wholly unsuccessful: And that some of my own Age, who were at first looked upon with Aversion and Contempt, by being well acquainted with the Wilderness, and by dodging their Women in the particular Corners and Allies of it, catched them in their Arms, and took them from those whom they really loved and admired. There was a particular Grove, which was called, *The Labyrinth of Coquets*; where many were enticed to the Chase, but few returned with Purchase. It was pleasant enough to see a celebrated Beauty, by smiling upon one, casting a Glance upon another, beckoning to a third, and adapting her Charms and Graces to the several Follies of those that admired her, drawing into the Labyrinth a whole Pack of Lovers, that lost themselves in the Maze, and never could find their Way out of it. However, it was some Satisfaction to me, to see many of the Fair Ones who had thus deluded their Followers, and left them among the Intricacies of the Labyrinth, obliged when they came out of it, to surrender to the First Partner that offered himself. I now had crossed over all the difficult and perplexed Passages that seemed to bound our Walk, when on the other Side of them, I saw the same great Road running on a little Way, till it was terminated by two beautiful Temples. I stood here for some Time, and saw most of the Multitude who had been dispersed amongst the Thickets, coming out two by two, and marching up in Pairs towards the Temples that stood before us. The Structure on the Right Hand was (as I afterwards found) consecrated to Virtuous Love, and could not be entered but by such as received a Ring, or some other Token, from a Person who was placed as a Guard at the Gate of it. He wore a Garland of Roses and Myrtles on his Head, and on his Shoulders a Robe like an Imperial Mantle, white and unspotted all over, excepting only, that where it was clasped at his Breast, there were Two golden Turtle-doves that buttoned it by their Bills, which were wrought in Rubies. He was called by the Name of *Hymen*, and was seated near the Entrance of the Temple, in a delicious Bower, made

made up of several Trees, that were embraced by Woodbines, Jessamines, and Amaranths, which were as so many Emblems of Marriage, and Ornaments to the Trunks that supported them. As I was single and unaccompanied, I was not permitted to enter the Temple, and for that Reason am a Stranger to all the Mysteries that were performed in it. I had however the Curiosity to observe how the several Couples that entered were disposed of; which was after the following Manner. There were two great Gates on the Back-side of the Edifice, at which the whole Crowd was let out. At one of these Gates were Two Women, extremely beautiful, tho' in a different Kind, the one having a very careful and composed Air, the other a Sort of Smile and ineffable Sweetness in her Countenance. The Name of the first was *Discretion*, and of the other *Complacency*. All who came out at this Gate, and put themselves under the Direction of these two Sisters, were immediately conducted by them into Gardens, Groves, and Meadows, which abounded in Delights, and were furnished with every Thing that could make them the proper Seats of Happiness. The Second Gate of this Temple let out all the Couples that were unhappily married, who came out linked together by Chains, which each of them strove to break, but could not. Several of these were such as had never been acquainted with each other before they met in the great Walk, or had been too well acquainted in the Thicket. The Entrance to this Gate was possessed by three Sisters, who joined themselves with these Wretches, and occasioned most of their Miseries. The youngest of the Sisters was known by the Name of *Levity*, who with the Innocence of a Virgin, had the Dress and Behaviour of a Harlot. The Name of the Second was *Contention*, who bore on her Right Arm a Muff made of the Skin of a Porcupine; and on her Left carried a little Lap-dog, that barked and snapped at every one that passed by her.

The eldest of the Sisters, who seemed to have an haughty and imperious Air, was always accompanied with a tawny *Cupid*, who generally marched before her with a little Mace on his Shoulder, the End of which was fashioned into the Horns of a Stag. Her Garments were yellow, and her Complexion pale. Her Eyes were piercing, but had odd Casts in them, and that particular Distemper, which makes Persons who are troubled with it, see Objects double. Upon Enquiry, I was informed that her Name was *Jealousy*.

Having finished my Observations upon this Temple, and its Votaries, I repaired to that which stood on the Left Hand, and was called, *The Temple of Lust*. The Front of it was raised on *Corinthian* Pillars, with all the meretricious Ornaments that accompany that Order; whereas that of the other was composed of the chast and matron-like *Ionic*. The Sides of it were adorned with several grotesque Figures of Goats, Sparrows, Heathen Gods, Satyrs, and Monsters made up of half Man half Beast. The Gates were unguarded, and open to all that had a Mind to enter. Upon my going in, I found the Windows were blinded, and let in only a Kind of Twilight, that served to discover a prodigious Number of dark Corners and Apartments, into which the whole Temple was divided. I was here stunned with a mixed Noise of Clamour and Jollity: On one Side of me, I heard Singing and Dancing; on the other, Brawls and Clashing of Swords. In short, I was so little pleased with the Place, that I was going out of it; but found I could not return by the Gate where I entered, which was barred against all that were come in, with Bolts of Iron, and Locks of Adamant. There was no going back from this Temple through the Paths of Pleasure which led to it: All who passed through the Ceremonies of the Place, went out at an Iron Wicket, which was kept by a dreadful Giant, that held a Scourge of Scorpions in his Hand, and drove them into the only Outlet from that Temple. This was a Passage, so rugged, so uneven, and choaked with so many Thorns and Briars, that it was a melancholy Spectacle to behold the Pains and Difficulties which both Sexes suffered who walked through it. The Men, tho' in the Prime of their Youth, appeared weak and infeebled with old Age: The Women rung their Hands, and tore their Hair; and several lost their Limbs before they could extricate themselves out of the Perplexities of the Path in which they were engaged. The remaining Part of this Vision, and the Adventures I met with in the Two great Roads of Ambition and Avarice, must be the Subject of another Paper.

ADVERTISEMENT.

I have this Morning received the following Letter from the Famous Mr. Thomas Dogget.

SIR,

ON Monday *next will be acted for my Benefit, the Comedy of* Love for Love: *If you will do me the Honour to appear there, I will publish on the Bills, That it is to be performed at the Request of* Isaac Bickerstaff *Esq; and question not but it will bring me as great an Audience, as ever was at the House since the* Morocco *Ambassador was there.*

I am,

With the greatest Respect,

Your most Obedient, and

Most Humble Servant,

Thomas Dogget.

Being naturally an Encourager of Wit, as well as bound to it in the Quality of Censor, I returned the following Answer.

Mr. Dogget,

I *AM very well pleased with the Choice you have made of so excellent a Play, and have always looked upon you as the best of Comedians; I shall therefore come in between the First and Second Act, and remain in the Right Hand Box over the Pit till the End of the Fourth, provided you take Care that every Thing be rightly prepared for my Reception.*

Advertisements.

THE Young Accomptant's Remembrancer, directing him to find the proper Debtors and Creditors in the most usual Transactions and Occurrences of Trade. With the Method of ballancing Accounts, and transferring them into a new Ledger. The Fourth Edition. By Tho. Mercer, of the Bank. Sold by Mr. John Lyons in Philpot-Lane near Fenchurch-street, who carefully teaches a Scheme of Merchants-Accompts, purposely composed by the said Author to exemplify the Remembrancer.

WHereas, in a Pamphlet lately published, entituled, [The Case of Bishop Atherton;] it is said in the Preface, That he confessed the Crime for which he unjustly suffered: This is to assure all, who are desirous to know the Truth, that he constantly denied that foul Crime all along, and with his last Breath; and the chief Witness against him, who was afterwards hanged, confessed at the Gallows, that what he had sworn against the said Bishop was utterly false. And the whole Kingdom of Ireland, especially the County wherein he lived, have ever since been, and are at this Day, possessed with an Opinion of his Innocence. N.B. All who appeared against him, came afterwards to disastrous Deaths. Any Person that has a Mind to be satisfied of the Truth of this, may enquire at Seneca's Head near Somerset House in the Strand.

THe unparallel'd Powder for cleaning the Teeth, which has given so great Satisfaction to most of the Nobility and Gentry in England, is sold only at Mrs. Garroway's, the South Entrance of the Royal Exchange, and at Mr. Ayscough's at the General Post-Office St. James's Street, and no where else in London. It at once using makes the Teeth as white as Ivory, tho' never so black or yellow, and effectually preserves them from rotting or decaying, continuing them sound to exceeding old Age. It wonderfully cures the Scurvy in the Gums, prevents Rheums or Defluctions, kills Worms at the Roots of the Teeth, and thereby hinders the Tooth-Ach: It admirably fastens loose Teeth, being a neat cleanly Medecine, of a pleasant Scent: It is an exceeding useful Powder, differing from all the common Pulvils, and excels in Virtues and effects the most celebrated Mouth Waters, or Washes. Price 1 s. the Box, with Directions.

EXcellent Cloathing against Cold and Rain; viz. Horsemens Coats and Surrouts made of Weather-Shag, at 10 s. per Coat, First Size: which for its Lightness exceeds all other Wear, and by the Experience of Persons of Quality and Gentlemen, is found to be the most useful in Travelling, Hunting, Horse-racing, or other Diversions exposed to Weather; it bearing the most violent Rains; and proper for Sea-faring men. Made and sold by Nicholas Clark, at the Blue-Lyon Cecill Court in St. Martin's Lane.

THe Three-Nun Inn in White-Chappel, will be to let at Midsummer next, either for the same Business, or any other that requires much Room. Enquire of Samuel Boughton at Puddle-dock, or at the Crown Coffee-house behind the Royal Exchange, where he is most Days at two in the Afternoon.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where *Advertisements* are taken in.